

111th Congress
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR

June 10, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

I write to express my concerns and bring your attention to a matter concerning the pending conference committee on Fiscal Year 2011 National Defense Authorization Act. Specifically, I ask that you work to exclude language that would overturn a long-standing ban on abortions performed in military medical facilities at home and abroad.

As you may be aware, the Senate Armed Services Committee recently passed an amendment to the Defense Authorization along partisan lines. The language would reverse existing law that prohibits members of the Armed Forces from receiving abortions at military medical facilities unless the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

The existing policy protects the lives of the unborn, spans three decades and is a result of bipartisan compromise. The new language included in a closed session, along partisan lines and attached to legislation intended primarily for the defense of our nation is inappropriate and should be roundly rejected. I urge you to do so when the conference committee convenes.

The sponsor of this amendment cites the safety of servicewomen in Iraq and Afghanistan as a rationale for proposing to open the floodgates to abortions potentially performed late term, for purposes of sex selection and virtually on-demand for any reason. A policy that seeks to take into account the safety of servicewomen can be more effectively achieved by addressing already existing policies concerning leave time, deployment eligibility and voluntary separation where necessary.

Speaker Pelosi, I urge you to bring the sanctity of life into the discussion when conference committee convenes, and reject instituting policies that make abortions readily available at military medical facilities. Let us promote and incentivize pregnant troops protecting the lives of the unborn.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Pete Hoekstra
Member of Congress



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